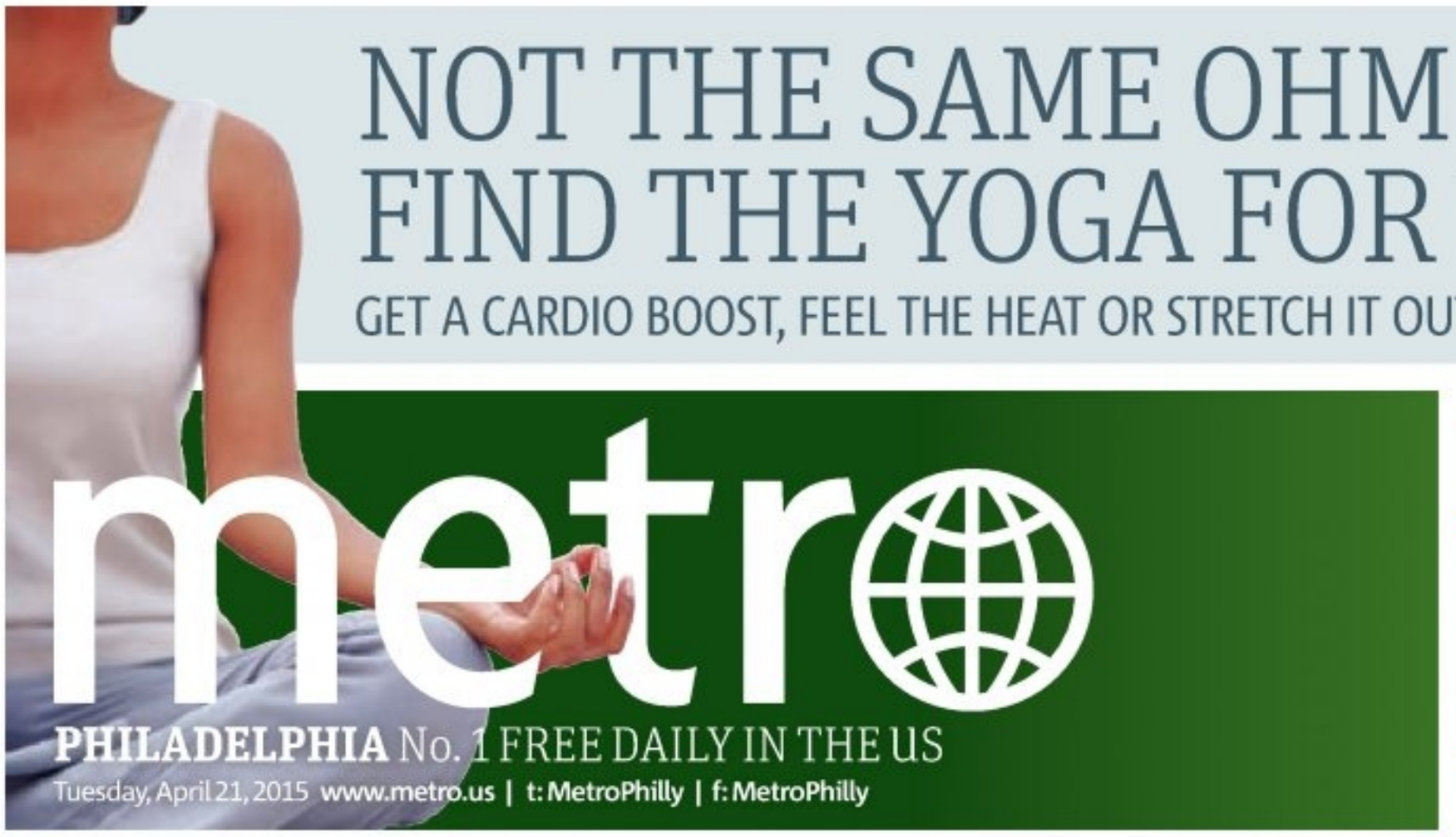

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GET A CARDIO BOOST, FEEL THE HEAT OR STRETCH IT OUT. PAGE 21

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Dirty cop rats out pal

On the stand. Accused Philly cop Jeffrey Walker testified against his friend and former colleague, Linwood Norman, in the high-profile narco cops trial. While on the stand, Walker recalled the rift with his former friend and hurtful comments made about his gastric bypass surgery. PAGE 02

TIM TEBOW: The saga continues ...

PAGE 27

Metro columnist Glen Macnow says Tim Tebow can be a valuable addition to the Eagles, but he isn't their savior. / GETTY IMAGES

Man not charged for burka statue prank

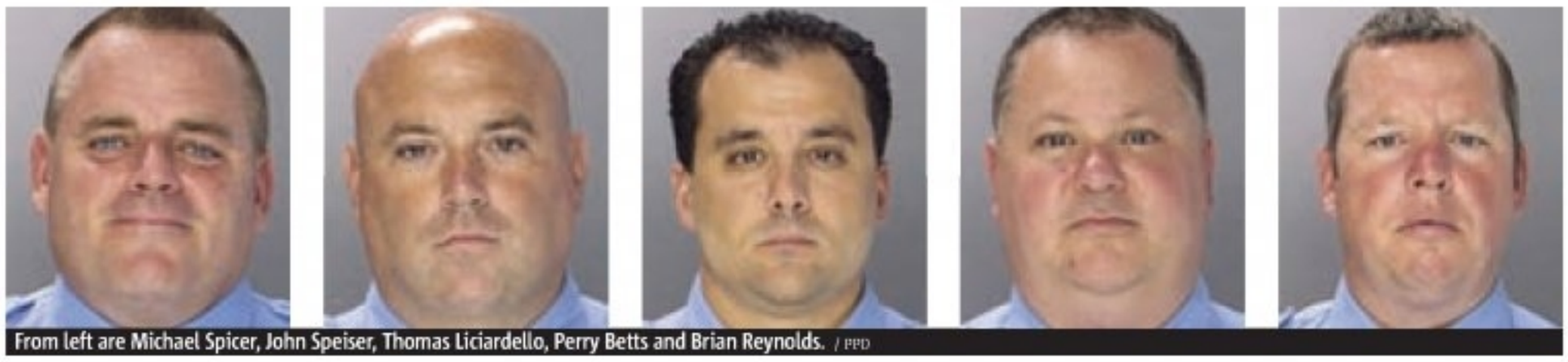
PAGE 04

EU steps up migrant shipwreck rescue

PAGE 10

Add some flare with spring's hot denim trend

PAGE 16



From left are Michael Spicer, John Speiser, Thomas Liciardello, Perry Betts and Brian Reynolds. / PPD

Accused Philly cops' friendship led to arrest

Betrayal. In three days of testimony, Jeffrey Walker cried once, when he was testifying against his friend.

From left are Jeffrey Walker and Linwood Norman. / PPD

They were known as Twin Towers — two African-American cops on an elite, mostly white, drug squad.

Jeffrey Walker was a troubled cop with a reputation for getting drunk and falling asleep on stakeouts.

Linwood Norman had family connections to the drug trade that, according to testimony, gave the men a ready buyer for stolen narcotics.

Together, the squad used their imposing physical size to help them intimidate suspects. The story of their friendship and its undoing highlight dynamics of the drug squad they were members of and its ultimate downfall.

Quoted

"They laughed and joked. They weren't supportive. The only person who supported me was Norman."

Walker

Walker, who was caught in an FBI sting burglarizing a drug dealer's house, took the stand for three days last week in an effort to get a reduced sentence.

He told jurors that when he began cooperating, he tried not to name Norman.

"I owed the man my life," Walker said, explaining that Norman had once tackled a gunman who had Walker in his line of fire.

For much of his time working in the Narcotics Field Unit, Walker worked in a car with Thomas Liciardello, the de facto leader of the group.

Over time, a rift grew between Walker and Liciardello. Walker, during testimony, said he was never quite sure what the rift was about — though defense attorneys implied Walker's excessive alcohol use was the source of the strife.

Walker became the butt of jokes in the unit. After getting gastric bypass surgery, his colleagues called him "staple stomach." They also made fun of his messy divorce.

When other members of the group began to refuse to work with him, Norman stuck by Walker.

"If Norman was off, I was by myself," Walker said.

Walker also testified that when the group was dividing cash stolen from drug dealers, he made sure Norman got his share.

Over time, however, Walker said he and Norman began to believe they were receiving less than what the others received. That led them to hatch a plot — never executed — to steal guns, drugs, cash and other evidence from their boss' car.

They also used Norman's family connections to the drug trade.

In one bust in which they arrested a drug courier carrying four kilos of cocaine, the courier was charged for one kilo.

Drug trade

After one bust, Walker testified that he believed other members of the group had stolen cash but had refused to share it with Walker and Norman. Walker stole a little bit of marijuana from each of the bricks the group had seized. He said he gave Norman a bag containing three to six pounds of marijuana.

- "The next day, he gave me a little over $2,000," Walker said in tearful testimony.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Tim Tebow

Philly welcomes fourth-string QB with pretzel

The Philly Pretzel Factory is getting a nice little marketing bump from the Eagles' new fourth string quarterback. Some guy named Tebow. Maybe you've heard of him?

The pretzel company is selling pretzels formed to look like Tim Tebow in his iconic "kneeling prayer" pose. They cost $1.

Philly Pretzel Factory marketing director Adam Terranova said that a franchisee had developed the pretzel in Georgia a couple of years ago, but it never took off because there wasn't much of a Tebow connection to that state.

But PPF's CEO remembered the pretzel as word spread of the — Tebretzel.

That sent the company's R&D folks into the lab. They thought they had a good copy and were ready to unveil it.

But they were beaten to the punch by fans on twitter who unearthed photos of the — Pretzbow.

If you want to buy a Tebowing pretzel, they are only available at PPF's Mayfair store.

The shape of a traditional soft pretzel — not the figure-8 Philly kind — is twisted to remind the faithful of crossed arms. In olden times, people crossed their arms over their chest during prayer instead of clasping their hands. DAN KELLEY

Kinda looks like "The Thinker" / PROVIDED/PHILLY PRETZEL FACTORY

1 NEWS

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2 Three ways married people can spice up their sex lives

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Left, the 3-foot-tall burka-wearing, gun-toting statue. Right, officers meet with the gas station staff. / PROVIDED

Burka statue was prank, not crime, police say

Weird. Painted statue appears to depict a Muslim woman holding an AK-47.

Burlington City Police will not file criminal charges against the 37-year-old Langhorne, Pa., resident who left a strange painted statue of what appears to be a woman wearing a burka and holding a machine gun outside a gas station.

"It was more of a bad decision or a prank on his part," said Sgt. John Fine of the Burlington City Police Department.

According to Fine, the individual who left the 3-foot-tall statue in the bushes by a Gulf gas station at Route 130 South and High Street went to police to claim responsibility for placing the statue there.

That individual said he found the statue in the woods and left it outside the gas station randomly — and was not targeting the gas station owners, Fine said.

Burlington City police discovered the statue after video of it was posted on social media.

On Saturday, they showed it to the gas station's employees, who "[were] appalled by what they observed," according to police.

Burkas are part of traditional Muslim garb.

However, an employee at the Gulf gas station said the owner is not Muslim — he is a Hindu man from India.

Quoted

"In such a diverse community like the City of Burlington, we must ensure that all people are treated with dignity and not stereotyped."

Burlington City Police Department

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

'No man is worth jail.' Woman charged with maiming rival

A bizarre love triangle that ended over the weekend with one woman maimed, two houses burned and a second woman facing attempted murder charges was best summed up on, of all places, Twitter.

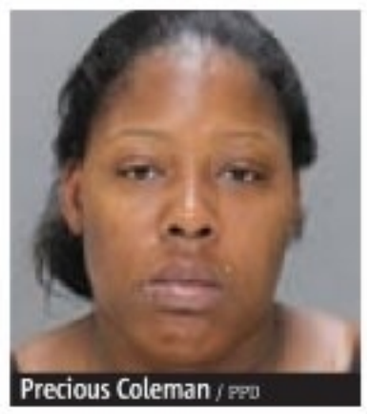
Eugene Jackson (@Phillygene1) wrote these pearls of wisdom: "Women don't be like Philly's Precious Richardson Coleman & run someone over for love. No man is worth spending your life in jail."

Jackson speaks the truth, police confirm.

Coleman allegedly went after her romantic rival, 24-year-old Beatrice "Dee Dee" Spence, full throttle on Friday.

She floored her 2004 white Dodge Durango and ran down Spence and her uncle, Damon Watson, 37, outside Spence's Nicetown home, cops said.

Coleman, 29, later turned herself in and was charged with two counts of attempted murder.



Precious Coleman / PPD

Spence's right leg had to be amputated below the knee.

JOHN OSWALD

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#Messageinapothole: The finalists

We asked for photos of some of the city's worst potholes. You sent them. Top: #potholepalooza by @Preston_the_Pug at Spring Garden and 16th. Below, left: "Hole the size of the city-suburban education gap," at 7th and Lombard by Nathaniel Popkin; right, top: "Pothole of No Return," at 23rd and Wilder; right, bottom: "Holey Moley," at 21st and Susquehanna. Which one's the worst? Log on to metro.us/philadelphia to vote. / PROVIDED

Pennsylvania

Three found shot to death in hotel

A man shot and killed another man and a woman before killing himself in a southern Pennsylvania hotel room on Sunday, police said.

The three were all found in a room at a Quality Inn in Springettsbury Township, about 100 miles west of Philadelphia.

"There's no threat to anyone at this time that we're aware of," Springettsbury Township Police Chief Daniel Stump told a local CBS television affiliate.

The victims were identified as Shaquana Graham, 33, and Kristopher Pittman, 25, of Baltimore, and the shooter was identified as Graham's husband Donnell Graham, 35, the York Daily Record reported.

No further details about the shooting were immediately available. Representatives for the police and the York County coroner could not be reached for further comment.

REUTERS

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Five things you need to know

1 Six Minnesota men charged with conspiring to support ISIS

U.S. authorities have charged six Somali-American young men from Minnesota with planning to join Islamic State and fight for the militant group in Syria, the U.S. attorney for Minnesota said on Monday.

The six were part of a larger group of friends and relatives that had been conspiring for the past 10 months, many trying multiple times to leave the country, U.S. prosecutors alleged.

They were arrested Sunday as part of a year-long FBI investigation into young men from the area trying to travel to join Islamic State, and there is no evidence they had plans to conduct an attack inside the United States, prosecutors said.

Dozens of people from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, many of them young Somali-American men, have traveled or attempted to travel overseas to support Islamic State or Al Shabaab, a Somalia-based militant group, since 2007, according to U.S. prosecutors.

"We have a terror recruiting problem in Minnesota," U.S. Attorney for Minnesota Andrew Luger told a news conference.

Zacharia Yusuf Abdurahman, 19, Adnan Farah, 19, Hanad Mustafe Musse, 19, and Guled Ali Omar, 20, were arrested in Minneapolis. Abdurahman Yasin Daud, 21, and Mohamed Abdihamid Farah, 21, were arrested in California after driving from Minneapolis to San Diego. All are U.S. citizens. REUTERS

2 New Jersey Gov. Christie's approval rating falls to lowest yet

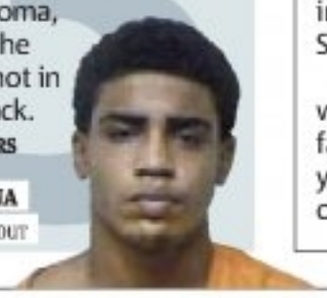
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie continues to lose favor at home, with a poll on Monday showing his lowest approval rating as governor as he attempts to woo would-be voters in other U.S. states for a possible 2016 Republican presidential campaign. New Jersey voters disapprove of the job Christie is doing by 56 percent to 38 percent, his lowest-ever approval rating, according to a Quinnipiac University poll. REUTERS

CHRISTIE
GETTY IMAGES

3 Teen faces life term for killing man out of 'boredom'

A teenager convicted of fatally shooting an Australian jogger in 2013 out of boredom faces life in prison without the chance of parole after he is sentenced in June, Oklahoma prosecutors said on Monday.

Chancey Allen Luna, who was 16 at the time of the crime, was found guilty on Friday of first-degree murder in the drive-by shooting of Christopher Lane, an Australian baseball player who was visiting his girlfriend in Duncan, Oklahoma, when he was shot in the back. REUTERS



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4 Justices weigh white supremacist's challenge to sentencing law

The Supreme Court on Monday weighed whether part of a tough federal criminal sentencing law should be struck down for being overly broad as the justices heard an appeal by a Minnesota white supremacist sentenced to 15 years in prison for illegally possessing a firearm.

Several of the nine justices indicated a willingness during the one-hour oral argument in the case to vote in favor of defendant Samuel Johnson.

If Johnson wins, he would be re-sentenced, facing a maximum 10-year sentence instead of 15 years. REUTERS

5 US tightens screening of airport workers after gun arrest

U.S. airport workers will be subject to extra security screening under new rules prompted by the arrest of a baggage handler in Atlanta on gun smuggling charges, federal authorities said Monday.

Airport and airline employees will now have to be screened before flying by the Transportation Security Administration, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said. They also face increased random screening throughout the workday. REUTERS

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Life or death? Boston bomber's trial turns to sentencing phase

Next step. Neither prosecutors nor defense lawyers have said publicly who they will call as witnesses.

Court sketch of Tsarnaev by Jane Flavell Collins

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is set to return to court today for the next phase of his trial, when prosecutors will argue that he should be sentenced to death for his role in the deadly attack in 2013.

In sharp contrast to the guilt phase of the trial, when lawyers for the ethnic Chechen defendant did not contest that their client had killed three people and injured 264 in the bombing, the next four weeks are expected to feature emotional testimony from both sides as Tsarnaev fights for his life.

The question of whether Tsarnaev, 21, should live or die is highly controversial around Boston. Polls have shown that a plurality of area residents, 49 percent, prefer a life sentence, and family members of two of the people he killed have also spoken out against executing him.

Citing al Qaeda materials found on Tsarnaev's computers, and a note suggesting the April 15, 2013 attack was an act of retribution for U.S. military campaigns in Muslim-dominated nations, prosecutors contend Tsarnaev wanted to "punish America" in an attack that showed a callous disregard for human life. Defense attorneys have tried to paint Tsarnaev, who immigrated from Russia a decade before the attack, as adrift and under the influence of his older brother, 26-year-old Tamerlan, who died following a gunfight with police hours after the pair shot dead an officer.

REUTERS

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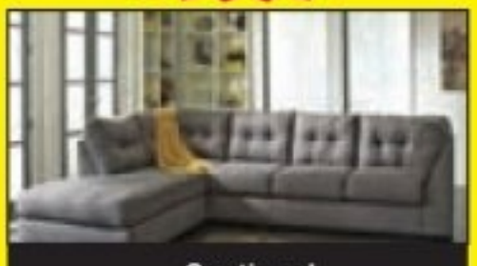

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Local residents and rescue workers help a migrant woman. / GETTY IMAGES

Bodies brought ashore from sea shipwreck

Rescued. Some survivors from the capsized migrant boat were taken to the Sicilian port of Catania.

The European Union proposed doubling the size of its Mediterranean search and rescue operations on Monday, as the first bodies were brought ashore of some 900 people feared killed in the deadliest shipwreck while trying to reach Europe.

Three other rescue operations were underway on Monday to save hundreds more migrants in peril on overloaded vessels making the journey from the north coast of Africa to Europe.

The mass deaths have caused shock in Europe, where a decision to scale back naval operations last year seems to have increased the risks for migrants without reducing their numbers.

"The situation in the Mediterranean is dramatic. It cannot continue like this," said European Council President Donald Tusk, calling an extraordinary summit of EU leaders for Thursday to plan how to stop human traffickers and boost rescue efforts.

In Vienna, more than 3,000 people, including President Heinz Fischer, gathered at a memorial service for the dead. The demonstrators put candles on an inflatable raft in their memory.

EU ministers held a moment of silence at a meeting to discuss the crisis in Luxembourg. The bloc's executive, the European Commission, presented a 10-point plan to address the crisis, which would include doubling the size and the funding of "Triton," an EU naval operation in the Mediterranean.

But even that would leave the operation smaller and less well-funded than an Italian mission abandoned last year due to costs and domestic opposition to sea rescues that could attract more migrants.

Italy and Malta were working to rescue another two migrant boats with around 400 people off the coast of Libya on Monday. Hundreds of kilometers (miles) to the east, coast guards were struggling to save scores of migrants from another vessel destroyed after running aground off the Greek island of Rhodes.

Greek coast guards said at least three people were killed there. Television pictures showed survivors clinging to floating debris while rescuers pulled them from the waves. REUTERS

Possible death toll

900

Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said as many as 900 people may have died in Sunday's disaster off the coast of Libya when a large boat capsized. That is the highest death toll in modern times among migrants, who are trafficked in the tens of thousands in rickety vessels across the Mediterranean.

420. Second most weed-friendly city for daters is New York City

Men were more accommodating toward partners who smoked. / GETTY IMAGES

Afraid your 420-friendly habits will turn off potential partners? No worries — New York came in second on a survey of weed-friendly cities for daters by WhatsYourPrice.com. Ninety percent of respondents in New York said it would not be a deal breaker if their partner smoked marijuana. Boston was also among the top 10 cities.

WhatsYourPrice.com surveyed 90,000 respondents across the country; approximately 57 percent of respondents said they would date someone who smoked weed. The average age of respondents is 38 years old.

Sixty-five percent of users 18 to 34 said they would date someone who smoked pot; 56 percent of users between 35 and 55 would accept a mate who blazed. Men were more accommodating toward partners who smoked. Sixty percent said they would date someone who got smoked up, and 54 percent of women said the same.

"Although the debate over marijuana legalization has been sweeping the nation, smoking is not equally accepted by everyone," said Brandon Wade, CEO and founder of WhatsYourPrice.com in a statement. "Singles who appreciate this type of lifestyle might want to venture out to one of these cities to find a partner who is well suited for them."

ANDREA PARK, METRO

Drivers

Uber must face lawsuit claiming it snubs blind people

Uber must defend against a lawsuit accusing the popular ride-sharing service of discriminating against blind people by refusing to transport guide dogs, a federal judge ruled.

In a decision late Friday night, U.S. Magistrate Judge Nathanael Cousins in San Jose, California, said the plaintiffs could pursue a claim that Uber was a "travel service" subject to potential liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The judge also rejected Uber's arguments that the plaintiffs, including the National Federation of the Blind of California, lacked standing to sue under the ADA and state laws protecting the disabled.

Uber / REX USA

Uber was given 14 days to formally respond to the complaint. The company and its lawyers did not immediately respond on Monday to requests for comment. The NFB and lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to similar requests.

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Hipster goes half-and-laugh

Quirky beard photos

Artist gets surreal with half a beard

If you think the hipster beard trend is getting a bit bland, put the fun back into the fuzz (well, by half) as Adriano Alarcon did for his quirky series. The Brazilian photographer shaved off one side of his beard and accessorized half of the face with funky items like popcorn, chocolate sprinkles and plastic bugs. MWN

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Q&A

Adriano Alarcon, photographer and art director

Why did you decide to do this project?
Just to have fun.

That's a thick (half) beard. How long did you grow that for?
Four months, and the last month was pretty rough. In that time, it takes more time to dry the beard than your hair. And I decided not to trim any little bit of the beard to make it as rough as it could possibly be.

How do you decide what to stick on your face?
During the last month of growth, I started collecting objects to wear, from plastic insects to candies. The objects don't have any relationship between them.

What is the message in these quirky pictures?
I guess the biggest message is that people shouldn't worry so much about their own image; it's about expressing ourselves, even if it looks silly. I think we're living in a time in which everyone seems so self-concerned about the right way to look or behave.

DANIEL CASILLAS, MWN

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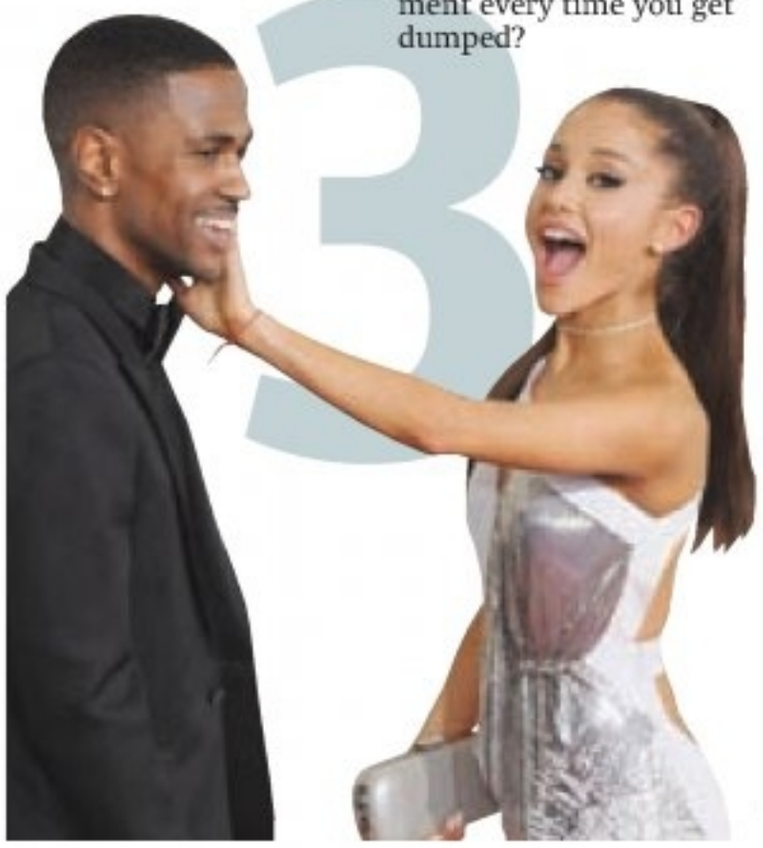
JUSTINTIMBERLAKE, INSTAGRAM

Justin Timberlake posts first photo of baby Silas

Justin Timberlake has skipped the usual "premiere your baby in People magazine" celeb baby debut, and opted instead for a social media debut. The singer posted a pic of wife Jessica Biel and baby Silas over the weekend to Instagram with the caption "The Timberlakes are ready!!! GO GRIZZ!" Looks like little Silas is already a big basketball fan, as he's got his finest Memphis Grizzlies shirt on for the occasion.

True love never lasts: Big Sean and Ariana Grande broke up

Just a few days after Big Sean made a dirty joke about girlfriend Ariana Grande on Instagram, the duo has split. Their reps even confirmed it to US Weekly, saying, "They both deeply care for each other and remain close friends. We kindly ask that the media respect their wish for privacy regarding this personal matter at this time." Is love even real anymore? And aren't you glad you don't have to have a publicist release a statement every time you get dumped?



THE WORD

Lisa Weidenfeld takes on the world of gossip.

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

1 Bobby Brown, Houston family disagree about Bobbi Kristina again

Bobby Brown announced at a concert on Saturday that daughter Bobbi Kristina is awake from her coma, only to have the Houston family deny Monday that any changes had occurred in her condition. Rumors have flown constantly about the state of her health, and with Brown's sister Tina confirming his news in a Facebook post, he eventually had to have a lawyer clarify what had happened. The official statement is that "there has been improvement," but that "the quality of her life will not be known for years to come."

2 Russell Crowe: Buying a rugby team ruined my marriage

You know that old stereotype where wives are annoyed at their husbands for spending too much time watching the game? If you're as rich as Russell Crowe, you can just go ahead and buy the team, but your wife will still be annoyed. The actor bought the South Sydney Rabbitohs in 2006 and told CBS that it was "a good business decision," but "it's taken a lot of work, and it's probably cost me a marriage." The actor has been separated from wife Danielle Spencer since 2012, but on the upside, his rugby team won the Rugby League Championship last year. So, silver lining?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Morgan Spurlock says Harry Styles is going to leave One Direction next

The foremost expert on One Direction, documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, shared his theory that Harry Styles will be the next member of the boy band to depart. Spurlock directed the One Direction doc "One Direction: This Is Us" and told TMZ that he thinks Styles will be the one to follow Zayn Malik out the door. He didn't provide a timeline, though. We're going to need specifics here, Spurlock.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Anna Kendrick is prepared to replace Zayn, Mindy Kaling talks skin care, Kim Kardashian is traveling, Ricky Gervais is anti-hunting and Taye Diggs is feeling inspirational.

@AnnaKendrick47: I heard @onedirection has a job opening... and from certain angles I look like a british teenage boy sooooooooooo

@mindykaling: I will know I'm famous if I have a major cosmetic dermatologist in my entourage

@KimKardashian: This jet lag is crazy! I can't sleep!!!

@rickygervais: You know that feeling of joy someone gets when they put an arrow through a giraffe's eye.....No, me neither.

@TayeDiggs: A day without laughter is a day wasted. #CharlieChaplin

Tommy Hilfiger Spring 2015 / GETTY IMAGES

Channel Jane Birkin

Denim. Flare jeans are back with a vengeance. Update your spring wardrobe with one of these pairs.

If there's one trend we can't escape this spring, it's the '70s. The decade is raging harder than ever, and in the center of it all is the flare-leg jean. The look is one that anyone from the most fashion-obsessed to the sartorially laid-back can get behind — thanks to its figure-flattering silhouette. Slip into a pair, and it instantly elongates your legs and slims your waist. And the must-have item is an easy way to update your wardrobe for the season — and beyond:

Wide-leg pants held strong on the fall runways as well. So ease up on your skinny jean rotation and get in the groove with these picks.

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Not your average Pride

Celebration.
Philly Black Pride wants to be a more serious alternative to the typical party.

Philly Black Pride, formerly Philadelphia Black Gay Pride, started out 16 years ago as a series of secret parties in West Philly held in conjunction with the Penn Relays. Now it's under the bright lights of the Kimmel Center for a Social Sunday bash catered by Iron Chef Jose Garces and featuring a performance by Dawn Richard.

"We deserve the best," says organizer D'Ontace Keyes. "I enjoy seeing a lot of people come into the city; it's very inspiring. We pretty much take over the city, take over the nicer venues, and we really make our presence known."

Highlights, in addition to the Kimmel event, include a spoken word open mic at Ladder 15 on Wednesday; an awards reception Thursday at Miss Tootsie's; and a Gentlemen's Brunch and Ladies' Luncheon on Saturday.

Think of it as an alternative to boozy pride events.

"We do it more so people of color can connect with each other without the flamboyance of pride parades," Keyes says. "The beers and hot guys and barbecue events, we don't see ourselves at."

Philly Black Pride's mission is to "transform the living and social environments of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people of color." That doesn't mean this is an exclusive party.

"We want people to experience the city and also connect with others, near and far, at these events," Keyes says.

Just don't ask where the keg is.

CHRIS JORDAN
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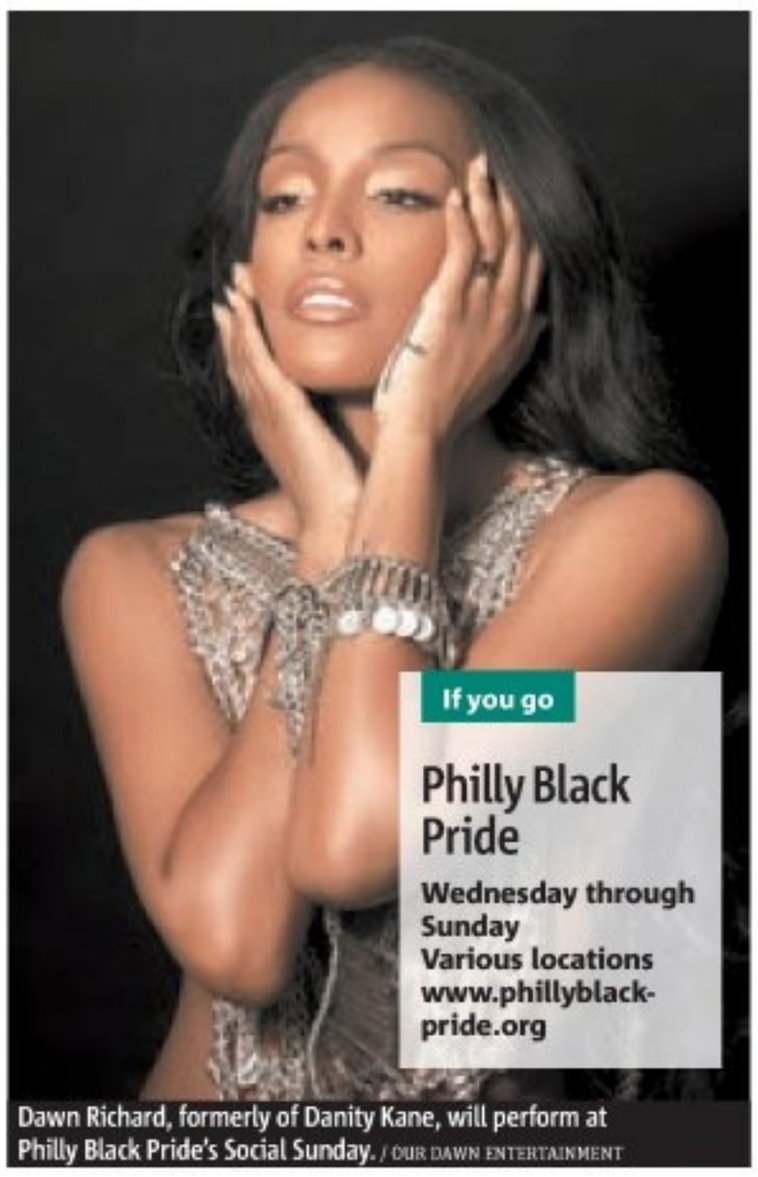

If you go

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Dawn Richard, formerly of Danity Kane, will perform at Philly Black Pride's Social Sunday. / OUR DAWN ENTERTAINMENT

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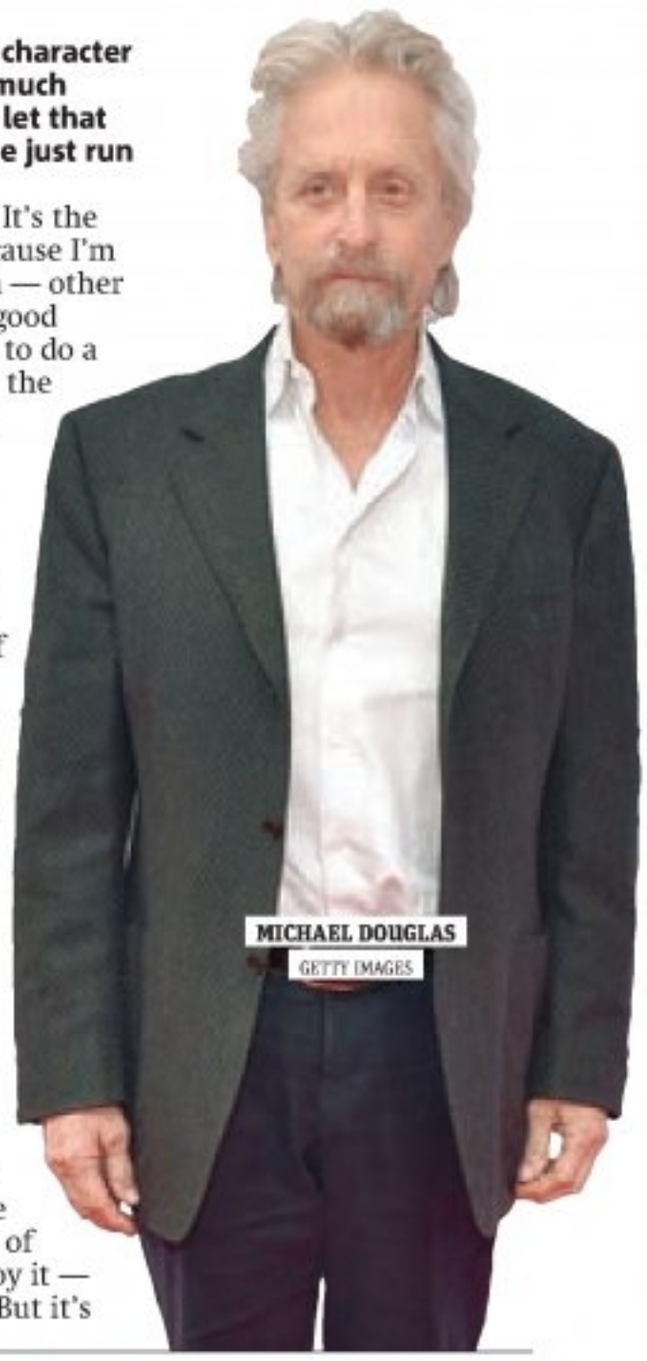
Michael Douglas: Evil is fun

Interview. The veteran actor talks fun villains, "Beyond the Reach" and "Ant-Man."

As the trailer for "Beyond the Reach" makes clear, you don't necessarily want to take Michael Douglas' eccentric billionaire character hunting out in a hostile, remote environment since he might just decide to start hunting you. Douglas, who will next pop up in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Hank Pym in "Ant-Man," relishes the chance to let loose with a really evil character. Especially when he gets to drive a $500,000 Mercedes.

Why won't you leave that nice half-naked boy alone?
I know! Well, we had a deal. I remember working on that scene with him. I negotiated with him and made a perfect deal. We shook hands on it, and then he reneged. And what am I going to do? I can't trust him.

When you're approaching a character like this, how much fun is it to just let that malevolent side just run free?
It's such a ball. It's the most joy — because I'm not a comedian — other than getting a good laugh or trying to do a funny part. But the freedom of evil in a theatrical role is great. Going back to, obviously, Gekko. I don't know if this is "Fifty Shades of Grey," but it's a shade of grey from Gekko. People love villains, and most actors have given some of their best performances playing really bad guys. It's that freedom that doesn't allow you in a civilized society to behave that way, so the audiences kind of vicariously enjoy it — and so do you. But it's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You don't want to go camping with this guy. / CLAY ENOS

true, you have to anchor it in some kind of justification, otherwise it just gets off the track.

Gekko aside, how do you think this guy stacks up against some of your other villain roles?
This was pretty far over the top in a lot of ways. But I read this book back in the early '70s. It was originally called "Deathwatch." Obviously at the time, I identified with the Jeremy Irvine part, but it had this sort of larger-than-life monster movie quality, so I tried to complement that with the car — and we lucked out with this Mercedes, which is just being released and is kind of the perfect vehicle. So I think it's a little broader, not quite as nuanced as some of the other ones I've done.

Is that actually a $500,000 car?
Yeah, it is. It was the only one in North America, the prototype, and they already had orders for about 500 of them. It's mostly, you know, Middle Eastern princes using them to go falcon hunting. The perfect wheels if you want to go falcon hunting. That's a limited commercial. But it was cool, big engine, and it flew. It came with its own German engineer. They were worried that we were going to destroy it, but it can take on a lot.

NED EHRBAR
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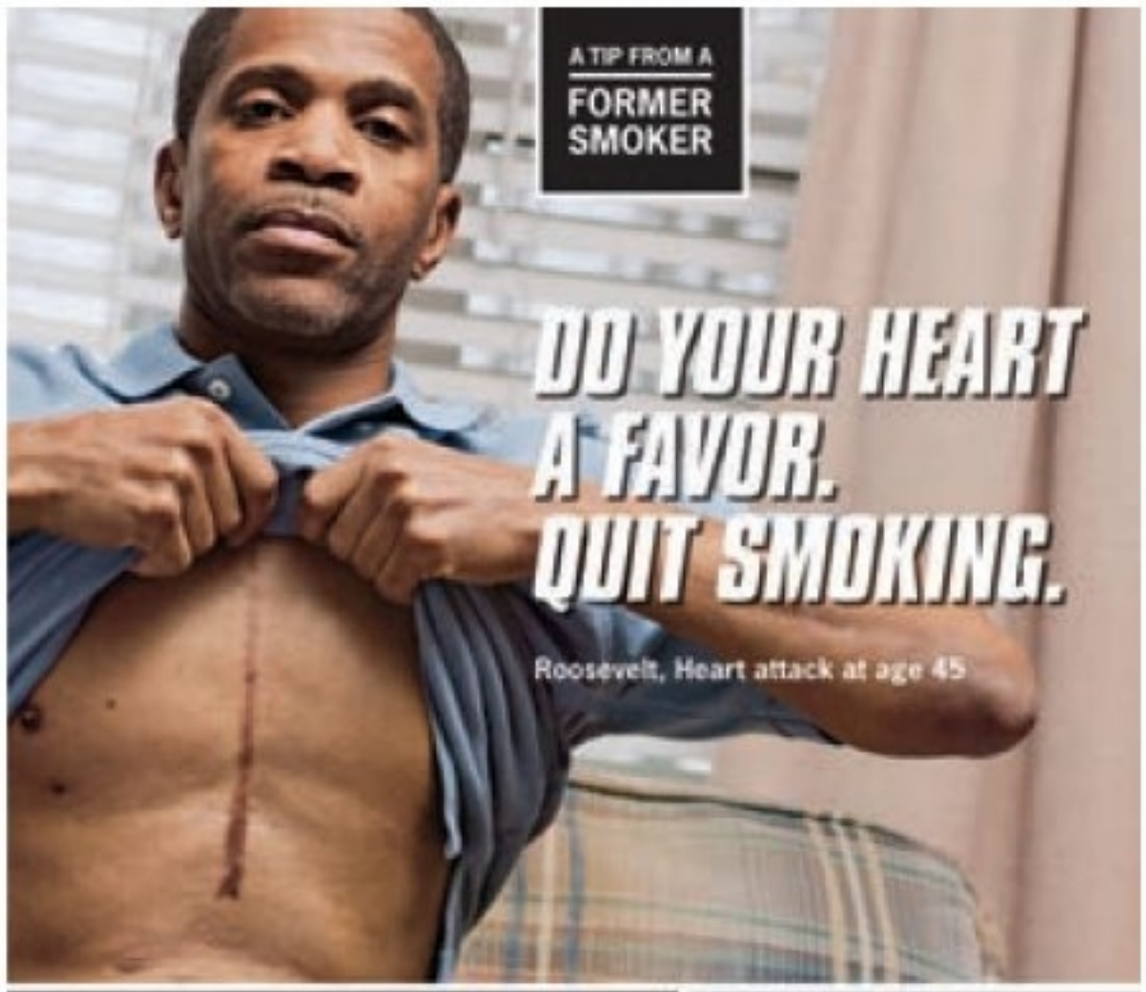
Bonus questions

So villain-wise, how does this character compare with your next role coming up, Hank Pym in "Ant-Man"?
It's very different. I mean obviously, as we talk I'm sure I'm going to get a blowgun to the back of the neck from the Marvel security forces that march around like my god. But no, the character of Hank Pym is very different, very different than this one. More intelligent and more controlled.

Well, we certainly don't want you getting shot with anything.
No, we don't.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Interview. Comedy legend Rowan Atkinson reflects on the enduring appeal of Mr. Bean

Rowan Atkinson is more than Mr. Bean, his tweedy, mostly silent comic creation who terrorized TV screens in the '90s. But it remains the performer's most returned-to character, yielding two movies and an animated series, which recently returned to British TV. And the original 15-minute live-action episodes have been newly released on home video.

Rowan Atkinson's Mr. Bean, with his teddy, attempts relaxation.
PROVIDED

How was the character born?
It started with a very simple idea of my friend, screenwriter Richard Curtis. Richard offered to show a man who constantly falls asleep anywhere, so we developed this idea and drew a sketch. That was an outline of the episode "Mr. Bean in the Church," when he fell asleep in the lap of a man sitting beside him. Mr. Bean is a person who I became when I was not allowed to speak. When he talked a lot, for example, at the end of the first film, and where he had a long monologue, it caused controversies in our team. We were not sure whether we should allow him to be so talkative.

Who were some inspirations?
I love the work of French comedian Jacques Tati. Few people know him, but he filmed very funny comedies between the 1940s and 1960s and became a significant person in this genre. Of course, I admire such iconic actors as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and Stan Laurel. But Jacques Tati inspired me; his work showed me visual comedy is exactly the thing where I want to achieve success.

Do you tend to be funny in your every day?
No, I'm serious and even a little dour. And in regard to work, unfortunately, I'm a perfectionist. When I watch movies or TV shows from the past, I never laugh and always say, "Everything is wrong."

NATALIE LEVSHINA

One more thing

Do you enjoy watching yourself?

Sometimes it's useful to leave viewing aside for later. For example, I was recently on a plane and watched "Blackadder," which we filmed more than 20 years ago. I looked and thought, "So, what? Everything is fine!" I guess I have already forgotten all the mistakes and the complexity of creating this work. And I just watched a good show, like a normal person. So I can enjoy my own work but it takes so much time for me to do that.

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Strike (the right) pose

Yoga classes are not all ohms and sun salutations — choose your path with our guide.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Irini Res, center, has been in the fitness field for more than 30 years and now teaches Ashtanga Yoga. KYLE FROMAN, ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

"This is what we dreamed about back in the day, when people made fun of us and called us pretzels," Irini Res says about the early days of yoga.

The Ashtanga Yoga teacher at Alvin Ailey Extension took up the practice after battling breast cancer in 1996, which took her out of the high-powered career in banking she never stopped to realize wasn't making her happy. Yoga gave her not just balance but empowerment to fight the disease. "The only thing that gave me hope was to know that I could do something about it, [and that] was get home, relax, stretch, open up my heart, open up my body, align myself back and maybe in my own way drive this sucker out," she recalls.

There are dozens of styles, but "yoga is yoga in that we all do the same poses," says Res. It comes down to increasing balance, flexibility and strength, which are valuable at any stage of life. "Yoga takes your skeleton and puts it back in its proper alignment."

But not all yoga is the slow, meditative movements you first think of. Res walked us through the most popular classes — with one piece of advice for anyone looking to start their practice: "Come in with an open mind and know that you're going on a journey. You're going to feel a difference from the very first class."

Hatha

Hatha was the first yoga style to arrive in the States and remains the most popular. It's also the one where teachers have the most flexibility in their choice of poses, though they tend to involve more stretching, so classes may vary depending on who's leading it or the difficulty level. The speed of the class can also be slower, as a teacher may focus on holding a pose longer to teach proper breathing technique.

Good for: Beginners and traditionalists.

Ashtanga

"This is the only one that follows a primary series, poses set from back when Buddhist monks practiced in the monastery," says Res. Besides being the oldest, it is also one of the most intense practices, with constant movement through 20 poses (it's often listed as power yoga on schedules). "This is the harder one," she warns.

Good for: If you want a cardio element to your Zen.

The best class for you

Even if you're not looking to become a warrior yogi through Ashtanga, if that's what fits into your schedule, your teacher can help make it work for you; Res has several variations on a pose to suit different bodies and skills. But she does have one recommendation: "The body clock in the morning is tightest. As the day progresses, the body opens up and releases; the evening is a better time to do your practice."

Bikram

Also known as "hot yoga," Bikram will have you sweating before it even begins. Hot yoga rooms are heated to about 105 degrees, which can boost the metabolism — but it's not for everyone. "When you heat up the body like that, you can overstretch and pull something. You're also not breathing as deeply," Res warns. "It's the breathing in conjunction with the poses, that's what causes the body to become aligned." Hydration becomes extra important, so bring water.

Good for: A deeper stretch — just go slowly.

The reusable bag trap

They are good for the environment — but bad for your health.

DMITRY BELYAEV, MWN
metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Whole Foods banned plastic bags in its U.S., Canada and U.K. stores back on Earth Day, April 22, in 2008. GETTY IMAGES

Using a reusable bag to shop for groceries may be good for the environment, but it won't be doing wonders for your own waistline, a new study suggests.

The report from Harvard Business School, which looked at the buying habits of thousands of shoppers in California, revealed that those who bring a reusable bag to the grocery store are more likely to buy organic foods — but are also more prone to splash out on junk food.

"We find that when people bring their own grocery bags, they are more likely to buy organic produce, and they are also more likely to buy indulgent items like cookies, ice cream and snack chips," Uma Karmarkar, assistant professor of marketing at Harvard and co-author of the report, tells us.

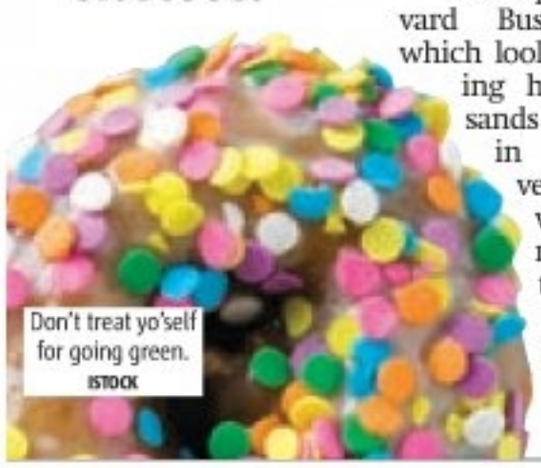
Karmarkar and her co-author, Duke University's Bryan Bollinger, analyzed about one million transactions at a grocery chain over a two-year period, using data from customer loyalty cards.

How did they know the junk food splurges were because we're congratulating ourselves on being eco-minded shoppers? When the grocery store required shoppers to bring their own bags, they didn't buy the unhealthy foods.

"People feel they have done something good or virtuous," Karmarkar explains. "This creates what is called a licensing effect. Having already done one virtuous thing, people feel licensed to indulge more in later choices."

So next time you're shopping, think of the sea creature you could be saving by not using plastic bags rather than grabbing a bag of sea salt chips as a treat for yourself.

"People feel they have done something good or virtuous. This creates what is called a licensing effect. Having already done one virtuous thing, people feel licensed to indulge more in later choices."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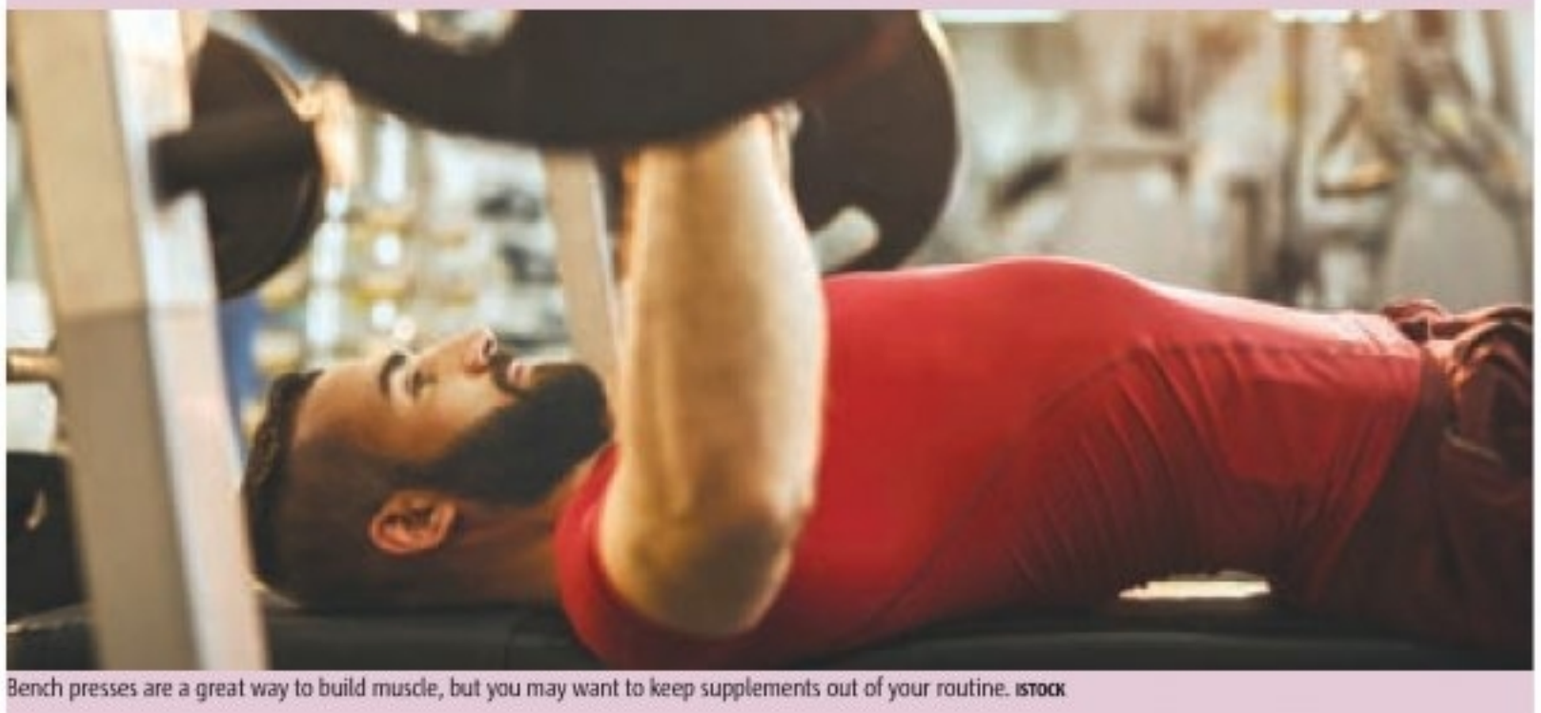

Bench presses are a great way to build muscle, but you may want to keep supplements out of your routine. ISTOCK

One trick to a better bench press

If you're looking to build upper body strength, bench presses are a tried-and-true method to grow muscle mass. But researchers just found a way to make them even more effective.

A study just published in the European Journal of Sport Science looked at muscle contractions during free-weight barbell presses while the participants were on a bench inclined at 0, 30, 45 and −15 degree angles. While a flat bench activated both the upper and lower pectoral muscles, the steeper inclines of 30 and 45 degrees were better at activating the pectoralis major (the front, upper chest) muscle group and improved the length of contraction in all the major muscle groups involved in bench presses, including the triceps. The researchers settled on a recommendation of doing horizontal presses on a bench inclined 30 degrees to amp up the muscle-building power.

A note of caution

Muscle-building supplements claim to be the natural alternative to steroids for men looking to bulk up, but a new study finds reason to be concerned about certain ingredients.

Men who used pills and powders that contain creatine or androstenedione once a week or more had a 65 percent greater risk of developing testicular cancer than men who didn't use supplements, a Yale University study found.

The risk is even greater among men who began using the supplements before age 25 (221 percent), those who take multiple kinds of supplements (177 percent) and longtime users (256 percent). EVA KIS

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Eat like a modern Viking

The Scandinavians still maintain a strong connection to nature, which shows in their diet. ISTOCK

Learn the healthy secrets of the Scandinavians.

ELODIE NOEL, MWN
letters@metro.us

Enough with Mediterranean countries and Okinawa Island in Japan — Scandinavia is the new center of attention for nutritionists and advocates of healthy eating.

"We have shown that this healthy Nordic diet results in a lower risk of cardiovascular diseases, decreases [bad-to-good] cholesterol ratio and lowers blood pressure," explains professor Matti Uusitupa, leader of a new study of Scandi-cuisine. "It also results in decreased values of some inflammatory markers, which are connected to cardiovascular diseases and the risk of type 2 diabetes."

Scandinavian obesity rates are between 10 and 15 percent, compared to 35 percent in the U.S. The Nordic diet — high in whole grains, vegetables, fruit and fish — is clearly one for those with a taste for staying trim.

Researchers at the University of Eastern Finland recently established that the Nordic diet reduces the expression of inflammation-associated genes linked to chronic weight-related diseases.

"Weight loss has been shown to happen if the Nordic diet is used without any particular emphasis to do so," adds Uusitupa.

"The new Nordic diet is based on regional foods that bridge gastronomy, health and sustainability," explains Arne Astrup, head of the University of Copenhagen's Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports.

And you don't have to go fishing on the Norwegian fjords to eat like them. "You can do it everywhere — same principle, just locally produced food."

Food staples of the Nordic diet

Root vegetables: carrots, turnips, beets
Cruciferous vegetables: cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage
Dark leafy greens: kale, spinach
Foraged foods: chanterelles, wild mushrooms, fiddleheads
Legumes: beans, seeds, lentils
Whole grains: rye, oats, barley
Fruits: berries, apples, pears
Wild fish: salmon, herring
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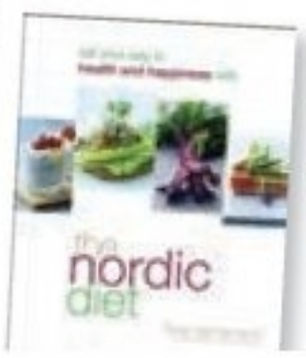

Recipe

Nordic Coq au Vin with Kale Salad

LARS RANE

"Root vegetables are a basic ingredient in the Nordic kitchen," says Trine Hahnemann, author of "The Nordic Diet." "Use them in many ways. They are nourishing and cheap."

Ingredients:
- 1 big chicken
- 2 onions, sliced
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1¼ cups white wine
- 3 parsnips
- 3 carrots
- 2 sticks celery
- 3 bay leaves
- ½ cup horseradish
- 1 cup kale
- 1 cup feta cheese
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

For the dressing:
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tbsp walnut oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Directions:

Cut the chicken into eight pieces. Heat olive oil in a saucepan and brown the chicken on both sides. Add onion and garlic and saute lightly. Add white wine, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, peel and cube the vegetables. Place them and bay leaves in saucepan with chicken and simmer for an additional 25 minutes. Add horseradish, season with salt and pepper.

While chicken simmers, wash, stem and chop kale. Grate feta into thin flakes and mix with the kale. Whisk together dressing and toss with the salad. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Increased responsibilities will highlight your dependability and knowledge. Your ability to get along with your peers will lead to great success.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
You will experience emotional ups and downs. Forget about dealing with personal issues for now.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
You will feel better once you reorganize and edit your personal papers. Nothing is more frustrating than searching high and low for something you need.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Being generous with your time as well as your cash will enable you to help those who need it most. A connection will arise.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If you want to be promoted, keep your personal matters out of the workplace. Your position will be jeopardized if you take time off.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Social events will be a surprising source of educational information. Listen to others' opinions and suggestions in order to discover useful information.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Improving your financial position takes effort. Keep abreast of information regarding investments. Act quickly.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Some friendships are not maturing as you'd hoped. If you decide to part ways with someone, be honest regarding your decision.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Unnecessary worry will affect your sleep. A change in the workplace will cause insecurity and tension. Work diligently and mind your own business.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Keep your temper in check to avoid unhappy conflicts. Becoming angry will not help your situation, but patience will.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
An elderly friend will need support. Recognizing his or her frustration will ease everyone's stress. Your compassion will be tested.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Your popularity is soaring. New people you meet through travel or social media will be won over by your charm and sense of humor. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1					4		8	
2				5			7	1
		5			6	9		
5	9	7						
	8		1		3		5	
						4	2	9
		4	8			1		
7	5			2				4
	1		7					2

	2	5			9	6		
9	4		8		1		3	
6								
		2	1					
1	5		3		6		7	9
					4	5		
								6
	1		5		2		9	3
		9	6			8	2	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Better give in to fast food workers' demands... or else

Whenever a "demand" is made, if the demand is not met, an "or else" is always threatened. For example, a gun-wielding mugger demands you give him your iPhone and wallet "or else" he will shoot you. As for those fast food workers demanding a $15 minimum wage, what "or else" do they threaten should they not get their demand?

Since they're not union members (yet), they cannot (quasi-) legally threaten to destroy businesses or break heads of replacement workers.

But they can threaten, though implicitly, to, among other things: 1) spit on customers' food; 2) "forget" to wash their hands after using restrooms; 3) purposely make customers wait longer for their orders or give them "lip."

I think fast food store managers should pay the $15 minimum wage demanded, since it's a small price to pay for labor peace.

And they better get used to the idea of paying for labor peace once these workers get the "right" to join the unions, whose bosses and officials helpfully organized the protests.
ALTON YEE, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

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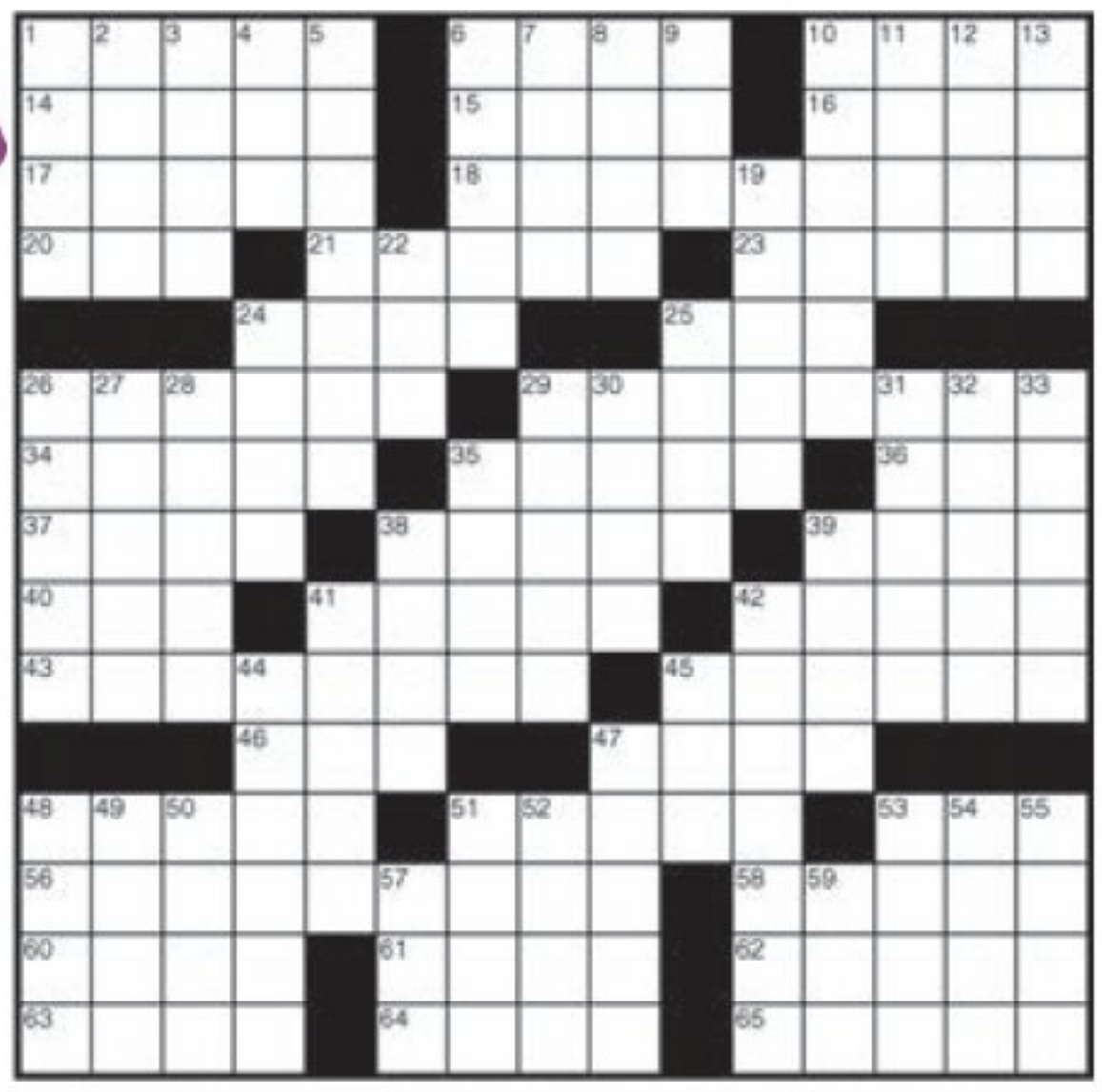
Crossword

Across
1 Fallback strategy (2 wds.)
6 Fruit tree
10 Zwieback
14 Tybalt's slayer
15 Auel heroine
16 Offshore
17 Mountaineer's tool (2 wds.)
18 Beatles' hit
20 Word in a recipe
21 Tenet
23 Blues street in Memphis
24 Novelist -- Grey
25 Pecs' partners
26 Fossil resins
29 Side by side
34 Causes distress
35 Yawned
36 Vocalist — Sumac
37 Essay byline
38 Ran easily
39 Unhearing
40 Ingested
41 Dangerous woman
42 "Shut up!" (2 wds.)
43 Widely scattered
45 Reef builders
46 Estuary
47 Tea clipper
48 Seer's deck
51 Skyrockets
53 Kimono accessory
56 Waves
58 Gentles
60 Pledge
61 P&L gurus
62 Sports venue
63 Lodge
64 Cuba, to Castro
65 Flax product

Down
1 Stiffly formal
2 Focal points
3 Visa rival
4 Teachers' org.
5 Freight movers
6 Check endorser
7 Ogled
8 In addition
9 Chinese zodiac animal
10 Least common
11 Meat-grading org.
12 Close securely
13 Ms. Ballard
19 Flowed back
22 HMO staffers
24 Catherine — -Jones
25 Grew older
26 In the future
27 Vitamin lead-in
28 To the point
29 Not live
30 Sign on a door
31 Veld scavenger
32 PC message
33 Rides the rapids
35 Bloodshed
38 Mona —
39 Pub missile
41 Hotel offering
42 Beachfront
44 Bubbling
45 Many a URL ender
47 — nova
48 Low cards
49 At the drop of — —
50 Gam or Rudner
51 Ray gun blasts
52 Hyalite, in geology
53 Shaman's quest
54 Nota —
55 This — — outrage!
57 201, to Cato
59 Jackie's tycoon

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Phillies prospects

Franco tears up Triple-A

There could be some new faces in Philly pretty soon as the rebuilding Phillies have some potent prospects. Maikel Franco, a corner infielder, is hitting .386 in Triple-A. In Reading, pitchers Zach Eflin and Aaron Nola and outfielder Roman Quinn are also performing particularly well.

Sports news you need to know

1 Eagles officially ink Tebow to one-year deal

A few years ago when the New York Jets traded for Tim Tebow, there was a lot of fanfare, pomp and circumstance. An introductory press conference brought the backup quarterback and the circus to town, but his stint in New York wouldn't last long.

Three years later, after a failed preseason tryout with the Patriots, Tebow's signing in Philadelphia was relatively low key.

With no media availability, the Birds simply announced the official signing of the 27-year-old quarterback to a one-year deal with a press release.

He has as good a football résumé as any third-string quarterback in the NFL, boasting two National Championships and a Heisman Trophy. He also won a playoff game with the Broncos in 2011, a season that saw him lead Denver in six game-winning drives.

As an Eagle, Tebow is expected to compete for the third-string spot (behind Sam Bradford and Mark Sanchez) or perhaps replace Matt Barkley, who could be cut or traded. **EVAN MACY**

TIM TEBOW
GETTY IMAGES

2 Mathis not reporting to workout

The first offseason workout for the 2015 Eagles began Monday at the NovaCare Complex, but one notable Bird was not among those reporting.

Offensive guard Evan Mathis was not in attendance, stirring speculation that the 33-year-old veteran could hold out for a new contract or until he is traded this spring.

Keep in mind the workout is not mandatory, so it could all be hearsay.

Due $5.5 million, his name has been at the top of trade-rumor lists for the Eagles all season, and it is no secret he is unhappy. It was reported a few weeks ago that he asked his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, to find a trade partner. **EVAN MACY**

3 Search for new Flyers coach continues

Flyers' GM Ron Hextall said he hopes to replace head coach Craig Berube by the NHL Draft in June. According to sources, the Flyers' wish list includes Claude Julien (Bruins), Mike Babcock (Red Wings), and recently fired Sharks coach Todd McLellan. "I have not scheduled any interviews; I've started gathering a list," Hextall said. "I'm not going to go public with things either. But you've got to get a list together. That's the first part of the process." **EVAN MACY**

CRAIG BERUBE
GETTY IMAGES

4 Phillies set to host Marlins

There's only one team in the NL East worse than the struggling Phillies: the Miami Marlins.

Boasting a 3-10 record (to the Phillies' mark of 4-9), Miami comes into Philly this week sitting on a four-game losing streak.

Superstar slugger Giancarlo Stanton is working his way out of a slump but is still batting just .239. Though not as bad as Ryan Howard and Chase Utley's struggles, the Marlins are terrible with their bats, ranking 17th in total runs and 14th in batting average in the early going.

They hope Dan Haren is their slump-buster. Tuesday's starter Haren has a 2.08 ERA in two starts and has been Miami's best hurler. He will face Jerome Williams to open the three-game set (7 p.m., CSN). **EVAN MACY**

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MACNOW: TEBOW MAKES SENSE AS PIECE, NOT SAVIOR

Opinion

GLEN MACNOW

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Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades.

I have this play in my mind: Sam Bradford takes the snap and hands off to DeMarco Murray. Finding no hole, Murray laterals to Tim Tebow, who hurls one downfield to Miles Austin. Sprung by a block from Ryan Mathews, Austin scores a game winner for the Eagles.

And there shall be mass Tewbowing in the end zone.

Crazy, right? Couldn't even occur in the most souped-up mode of Madden. Except the scenario has probably run through the mind of every Eagles fan since Sunday, when Chip Kelly signed Tim Tebow to a one-year deal.

The question is, what the hell is Big Balls Chip thinking here? Is he so arrogant he believes he can develop Tebow into an NFL quarterback when three prior coaches — including The Great Belichick — have failed? Does he regard Tebow as a viable Plan B if he can't reach up for Marcus Mariota in next week's draft? Is Chip such a Joe College guy that he foresees Tebow duplicating what he did at Florida — ignoring that he is the NFL's lowest-ranked quarterback since 2010?

I don't think so. In fact, despite the frenzy that blew up Twitter and sent ESPN's bloviators into paroxysms of ecstasy, the signing is no big deal. What Tebow might be is a small but useful addition to the Eagles.

Think of it this way: Tebow is an athlete and a football player. He's just not much of a quarterback (although I'd argue he's probably more a quarterback than Matt Barkley). Kelly's innovative enough to figure a situation to employ those skills — hmm, let's say fourth-and-goal from the one. Tim Tebow might be useful a half-dozen times a game as an H-back, fullback, punt protector, Swiss Army knife, something.

No one (except maybe Tebow and the braying ninny Skip Bayless) still harbors visions of Tebow (who will wear No. 11) as an NFL starter. But that doesn't mean he can't serve a purpose on a 53-man roster. You just need to separate all the history and the hooey to see it.

You may say that's impossible. You may say that the Heisman and the religious symbolism and the divisiveness that accompany this charismatic young man can't be separated out.

The key word, of course, is "distraction," as in, "the Eagles are going through so much change that they don't need another distraction."

Sure, training camp will be abuzz with the national drop-in media guys. The Eagles, for better or worse, will be the NFL's biggest story through the summer. But distraction? Truth be told, most NFL players are so myopic about keeping their jobs that they don't see anything beyond the guy lined up against them on the line of scrimmage. Even in a three-ring circus, the guy shoveling up behind the elephant sees only Jumbo's butt.

The never-ending saga of Tim Tebow continues. / GETTY IMAGES

Macnow on Tebow

"The football world will survive if Tim Tebow makes the team — or he doesn't. Maybe, just maybe, he's a worthwhile addition. Hey, I'm rooting for the guy."

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237 - Glenn Wagner; 57 - Mark Gilchrist; 55 - Sungnam Hong

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76ers' season wrap: Noel emerges, rebuild goes on

NBA. What should fans make of the mess that was the 2014-15 Sixers?

The 76ers' season mercifully came to an end last week with a 10th straight loss, closing 2014-15 with 18 victories. Last season, the Sixers won 19 games. The 18 wins were tied for the second fewest in franchise history. In 1995-96, the Sixers also went 18-64, ending up with the No. 1 overall pick and selecting Allen Iverson.

They could land the top pick again, but there doesn't appear to be a franchise-changing player to grab. With the anticipated debut of Joel Embiid, another draft and potential free agent targets, the Sixers should be improved.

For now, it's about analyzing the recently completed season.

ANDY JASNER
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

Covington: best surprise

How did Robert Covington go undrafted? He wound up being a 37 percent shooter from 3-point territory (167-for-446). More than that, Covington scored on a consistent basis, even when the opposition knew what he was going to do. Covington has a real chance of becoming a long-term player with this franchise.

Noel: most improved player

Nerlens Noel could be the 76ers' most valuable player. After sitting out the previous season with a torn ACL, Noel started slowly but had impressive moments. He became a serious candidate for Rookie of the Year and proved to be versatile on both ends of the court. With another offseason and better talent around him, look for another jump.

Nerlens Noel proved to be a defensive force for the Sixers this season. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Richardson: biggest heart

Richardson basically missed two seasons with injuries but somehow returned to average 9.1 points in 19 games. He also was a true team leader in every way imaginable. Watching Richardson come back from a couple of brutal injuries was almost unbelievable.

MCW trade: most stunning move

Michael Carter-Williams is competing for the Bucks in the playoffs. He was supposed to be the Sixers' point guard of the future. But the Sixers traded him to the Bucks in a stunning deadline deal, virtually giving up after only a year and a half. The Sixers don't even know what they'll get in return since that draft pick won't likely come until next season.

MANY 76ERS FANS WERE STUNNED WHEN MCW WAS SHIPPED TO THE BUCKS.

Wroten: the question mark

Tony Wroten was limited to only 30 games because of a knee injury. When healthy, Wroten is a bit of a whirling dervish who can get to the basket. The speedy guard also had a penchant for throwing passes into the 10th row of the stands.

WILL BROWN BE ABLE TO TAKE THE 76ERS TO THE NEXT STEP?

Brown: the right coach for this team

Brett Brown has won 37 games in two seasons. Yet he has done a remarkable job coaching the Sixers. His upbeat, positive personality resonates with everyone, and he knows how to develop players. When the talent gets better, so will Brown's record. Anyone can see that. Brown is dedicated to every single player on the roster, including the injured ones. He's all in.

"I just try to avoid everything and just go coach the guys," Brown said. "That's all I know, and that has been going for a while. So you're going to go out on the court, and I'll take the people that are healthy and then coach 'em up and try to put them in a position where they can play well."

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